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INTENSIFY DRIVE TO EXPAND FARM COOPERATIVES

AIM AT ELIMINATION OF INDEPENDENT PEASANTS -- Zurich, Die Tat, 30 Aug 50

With the harvest out of the way, a large-scale drive has been started for the collectivization of farm land in all countries of the Soviet orbit. In Hungary, the drive has assumed the proportions of an all-out offensive against the independent peasants. According to official reports, 20,000 families have joined the producers' collectives during the last few weeks, raising the total membership to 70,000. This total, however, represents less than one tenth of the independent peasant farmers, whose number is estimated at one million.

The Minister of Agriculture recently announced that a collectivization drive would be started before the beginning of fall work on the farms. The drive will not be a mass action, but will be carried out individually.

The names of new members who joined the cooperative during the week will be announced in a solemn ceremony every Sunday. Each new member will be asked to harass his neighbors until they, in turn, join the collective.

Most of the new members have been recruited from the ranks of former agricultural laborers who had received land through the land reform. These new independent farmers had neither machines, animals, nor capital, and therefore could not make good.

The new drive will be aimed at peasants who have owned their farms all their lives. Two hundred peasants, who had been taken on a 4-week tour to the USSR to inspect Soviet kolkhozes, have joined the cooperatives after their return to Hungary and are now engaging in propaganda for collectivization.

The tough resistance of the independent peasants will not be easy to crack, but, in view of the pressure which is being brought to bear on them, the outcome cannot be foretold. In any case, the announcement of the drive has created considerable disquiet in the country.

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PRODUCERS COOPERATIVES EXPAND -- Budapest, Szabadsagharcos, 12 Sep 50

The cooperative movement is increasing by leaps and bounds. More and more peasants are joining the producers' cooperatives, and the importance of this form of production is gaining recognition in all parts of the country.

Last month, membership in producers' cooperatives increased by 60 percent. Some of the towns and counties, however, showed increases of up to 300 to 400 percent.

The movement received particular impetus from the reports of the peasant delegates who recently returned from their visit to the USSR. As a result of their tours, many thousand new members have joined the cooperatives.

Increase in membership is greatest in the towns in which partial collectivization has been decreed by the Minister of Agriculture. The average size of producers' cooperatives and of state farms in these towns jumped from 282 to 440 cadastral yokes and from 833 to 1,120 cadastral yokes, respectively.

According to Imre Degen, general secretary of the SZOVOSZ (National Association of Cooperatives), membership in producers' cooperatives now totals 1½ million.

COOPERATIVES INCREASING -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 18 Aug 50

This year the number of producers' cooperatives has increased from 587 to more than 1,300, comprising 50,000 families tilling 400,000 cadastral acres. According to latest reports, 20,000 more families with 140,000 acres have recently joined the cooperatives.

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